

# 2009 Child Welfare Services Annual Report



**Montgomery County, Maryland**



## **CHILD WELFARE SERVICES 2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

**OUR VISION:** A future where children are safe, families are stable and communities are strong.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** To protect children, preserve families, strengthen communities, ensure permanency and well being for every abused and neglected child in Montgomery County.

### **GOALS:**

- Provide child-centered, family-focused, and community-oriented services that adhere to national standards of best practice and result in positive outcomes for children and families
- Advocate for the provision of all essential services to children and families.
- Create a work environment that attracts and retains competent and diverse staff and promotes professional development and leadership.

### **CHILD WELFARE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

This has been a challenging year for Child Welfare Services. The economic hardships that many families experienced resulted in increased demand for our services. Our dedicated staff responded with strong efforts to protect children, support families and provide necessary services. Child Welfare continued to be a key member of the Montgomery County Health and Human Services team and strong partner of the Maryland Department of Human Resources.

During the past year we were reaccredited by the International Council on Accreditation with no corrective actions recommended, and the Tree House gained accreditation from the National Children's Alliance. These are both great and important accomplishments.

The increased focus on measuring outcomes and the monthly collection of data for Statestats resulted in our devoting more attention to examining trends and looking for new ways to help children and families. As a result several new family centered approaches were implemented this past year. In the effort to speed reunification efforts, a new Visitation House opened late in the year to enable children separated from their families to visit with them in a homelike atmosphere. Acquiring the house was a result of a strong collaboration between the County agencies, the Courts and several community groups. In a very brief period of time the house was furnished and equipped by volunteers and other groups in the community, and it became a heavily utilized, popular place. In addition, expansion of Family Involvement Meetings resulted in more families achieving stability through the identification of community supports both for the children and their families. There was increased focus on the identification and engagement of fathers with their children and more searches were conducted for relatives, as resources to provide homes for children.

Again this year, a strong emphasis was put on safety, permanence and well being. The first National Adoption Day in Montgomery County was celebrated in November and efforts to keep children with people they know resulted in more children placed with relatives. A pilot project with the Montgomery County School system enabled more children to be transported to their home school when they had to move away from their homes and were able to maintain ties to familiar surroundings. This effort will increase with new federal legislation passed during the past year.

Our diverse, dedicated staff and our strong community partnerships are the keys to our successful work with vulnerable children and youth. In the coming year we will continue to increase family centered practice strategies and outreach to communities to find relatives and new foster and adoptive parents. We are dedicated to maintaining children in their homes as much as possible and to providing high quality services to families in an effort to assure that Montgomery County's children are safe from abuse and neglect.

Agnes Farkas Leshner, Director  
Child Welfare Services

## THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

Child Welfare Services is a complex system that offers a wide range of services to assess and ensure child safety and well being. Social workers conduct assessments to determine whether intervention is needed and what is the most appropriate intervention for children and families. In some situations, there is no need for services, and the case is closed. In other situations, services are provided by a community agency. If problems are considered serious but the child can remain in the home, social workers provide in-home supports and services and regularly visit the family. If children cannot safely remain in their home, they are temporarily placed with relatives or in a foster home. If over time, it is clear that reunification with parents is not possible, then placement with a relative or an adoptive family becomes an alternative. Having a safe permanent living arrangement is the ultimate goal for all children.

## SERVICES WE PROVIDE

**The Screening Unit** is the single point of entry for all Child Welfare cases. A total of 9,302 telephone calls were received during this past fiscal year. Social Workers in this unit receive calls from private citizens and professionals in the community, as well as, calls from other state agencies seeking assistance with children's issues and child maltreatment. This year 64% of the calls were related to child maltreatment. Social workers in the unit assess each referral to determine the need for an investigation/assessment of the maltreatment or refer the callers to other services that are available in the community to assist the family.

**Five Assessment Units** investigate allegations of physical and sexual child abuse and neglect, and evaluate the need for services to ensure child safety and promote family preservation. This past year social workers investigated 3,036 families, a 16% increase over the previous year. Neglect investigations accounted for 54% of the total investigations, while 34% were physical abuse, 10% were sexual abuse and 2% were mental injury. The social workers also conducted 205 assessments for other jurisdictions and the courts.

## SERVICES TO FAMILIES

When children can remain in their homes, specialized Family Preservation Services are offered to families. These services are time-limited, intensive, and home-based. This past year 80 families received these specialized services, involving 192 children. The program was highly successful, with 92% of the children remaining safely in their homes, not requiring out-of-home placement. In addition, Montgomery County has a separate family preservation program through a contract with the Montgomery County Collaboration Council. The program served 35 families and was highly successful in keeping children in their homes.

CWS also provides less intensive in-home services to an average of 122 families each month. These services are offered to families where abuse or neglect has occurred, yet imminent danger is no longer deemed to be present. Social workers monitor the continued safety of these children by visiting the family regularly, and offering other services.

## Foster Care

Out-of-Home Placement, called foster care, is intended to be a temporary placement for abused and neglected children who cannot remain safely with their families. Social workers provide case management and planning for permanent placement for children who are in out-of-home placements. A variety of reunification services offered to families can reduce the length of time children remain out of the home. If reunification is not possible, the focus becomes exploring other permanent living arrangements for children.

In FY 2009, an average of 580 children per month received services while they were in out-of-home placements. There were 236 new entries into out-of-home care, a 10% increase from the last fiscal year. An average of 372 children per month lived in foster homes, 150 children resided with relatives, and during the year 120 children were in group or residential care (including youth who were preparing to live independently).

## **Foster and Adoptive Families**

Last year we maintained a monthly average of 295 approved foster and adoptive homes. Information and Foster Family Recruitment meetings were held three times a month in different parts of the County and were attended by a total of 337 prospective foster parents. There were 87 studies initiated and over 50 new families were licensed.

Treatment foster parents provide a home environment for children with special needs. Seventeen Treatment Families received intensive training by our department to serve children with serious health and/or mental health problems including behaviors which are difficult to manage. Social workers monitored an additional 35 children each month who were placed with private agency therapeutic foster home providers.

## **Kinship Care**

The number of children living with relatives continued to grow; 30% increase during the past year. Family members offered a loving home to more than 90 children. Relatives were assessed for their ability to keep the children safe and protected, and supportive services were provided to them. Quarterly Kinship Caregiver Meetings were held to offer the relatives information, support and speakers gave presentations on such topics as positive parenting techniques, dealing with a sick child, and legal and permanency issues. As kinship caregivers, family members work with the CWS social worker to maintain children in their home and work toward reunification of the children with their parents once rehabilitative efforts have been successful. Kinship Care is a key element in Montgomery County's Family Centered Practice which focuses on keeping children with extended family members when they have been temporarily removed from their parents because of abuse or neglect.

If reunification efforts are unsuccessful, the kinship caregiver is asked to consider adoption or guardianship to provide permanency to the child. Children in the Kinship Program had an average length of time in-care of 12 months before the child was

- successfully returned to his/her parent or;
- the relative caregiver was awarded custody and guardianship or;
- the Juvenile Court approved a plan of adoption

Last year the Maryland Legislature approved the awarding of subsidies to relatives who have been approved through a home study process and to whom the Juvenile Court has given permanent custody and guardianship. This has helped many relatives for whom financial considerations were an issue. Over half the kinship caregivers were grandparents or great-grandparents and 50% were single heads of household. Neglect continued to be the primary maltreatment issue (96%), with drug and alcohol abuse the key risk factor (73%). The Kinship Program has established ongoing collaborative partnerships with the Income Supports and Child Care Subsidy Programs to facilitate easy access to services for relatives.

## **Adoption**

There were 57 finalized adoptions which included several sibling groups and teenagers and 73 children have a plan of adoption. Most of the children are in pre-adoption homes. Some of the barriers that block efforts towards adoption finalizations include children having severe psychological, emotional and behavioral needs that make it challenging to find adoptive resources for these children. Also, there continues to be ambivalence on the part of families and children to commit to adoption - even when supportive services are provided. The new state-sponsored Subsidized Guardianship Program resulted in more families choosing that program over adoption.

## **Independent Living**

Older youth who cannot return to live with their families receive Independent Living services to help prepare them for a transition from foster care to living independently. These services include case management, classes focusing on money management, career planning, maintaining a family and social network, taking responsibility for health care and referral to educational and job resources. In addition, financial assistance is provided for college tuition and fees, living expenses and skill development opportunities leading to self sufficiency.



Last year, 255 youth between the ages of 14 and 21 received Independent Living services. Many of the youth completed high school or attended college, vocational or technical training. During the past year, youth representatives from the Independent Living Program met with the Board of Social Services, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director and the Maryland Department of Human Resources (MDHR) Director to discuss their experiences and difficulties. They identified several areas that included the need for supportive housing environments, financial safety net and a connection to physical and mental health services.

The implementation of Family Involvement meetings at critical times between 18 and 21 helped to identify and address issues early so that stability was achieved prior to exiting CWS. This year, 8 graduating High School seniors received scholarships. Several youth were featured in the Montgomery County Gazette and one youth was interviewed by CNN.

### **The Tree House Child Assessment Center (CAC)**

The Tree House Child Assessment Center of Montgomery County Maryland is a public-private partnership that provides coordinated health and mental health services to victims of child maltreatment. To address the physical, emotional, and psychological needs of child maltreatment victims, The Tree House delivers an array of specialized services to both primary victims (the children), and secondary victims (the children's non-offending parents, guardians, or other family members).

In FY 2009, The Tree House provided 4,061 services to 899 victims of maltreatment: 807 new and 92 continuing clients. Of this number, 431 children or youth reported sexual abuse, 219 had been physically abused, 270 were neglected, 19 suffered mental injury/neglect, 40 endured mental injury/abuse, 28 were seen for foster care exams, 8 witnessed domestic violence, and 3 witnessed a child fatality. Among new clients, 30% were under 6 years old, 22% were between 7 and 12 years old, 18% were between 13 and 17 years old, 28% were 18 years of age or older, and the remainder (1%) were of unknown age.

### **Budget and Administration**

The FY 2009 budget for Child Welfare Services was \$22,126,340. The Maryland Department of Human Resources (MDHR) represented approximately 75% and Montgomery County funds contributed approximately 25% of the total budget. In addition to funds designated for personnel and basic operating expenses, MDHR provided flexible and/or special purpose funds for a variety of services, such as psychological evaluations, preparing youth for independent living, child care for foster parents and relative caretakers, court-ordered therapy, foster/adoptive parent recruitment and retention efforts, and adoption promotion.

Many client services, particularly mental health services, were made possible by funding from outside Child Welfare Services. For example, the Core Service Agency made resources available for in-home crisis intervention/stabilization services and for attachment and bonding studies for young children. In addition to community education/outreach services and protective services on holidays/weekends, County funds were used for specialized necessary services such as home based crisis services, service coordination and parenting skills training, and post adoption services to prevent adoption disruption.

### **Legal Activities**

The Office of the County Attorney, Division of Health and Human Services, continued to provide legal representation for CWS. This unit consists of staff and contract attorneys, paralegals, and legal secretaries. Montgomery County remains the only county in the state to have a legal team co-located with CWS. This team represents CWS in Juvenile Court, in other court proceedings, and in administrative appeals. In addition, the attorneys serve as general counsel to the CWS administrators, participate in weekly case reviews with child welfare staff, prepare social workers to testify, and provide regular legal training programs for CWS staff. The attorneys also represent the Director of the Tree House, Montgomery County's Child Assessment Center, and participate in multi-disciplinary team (MDT) case reviews.

Fiscal Year 2009 saw a 20% increase in new Children In Need of Assistance (CINA) petitions filed in the Juvenile Court and a 15% increase in the number of hearings held. The number of new

Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) cases filed in the Juvenile Court decreased from 59 filed in FY 2008 to 46 filed in FY 2009. The Court granted final orders of guardianship in 30 cases. These children are now legally available to be adopted. The number of new adoption petitions filed increased dramatically from 22 in FY 2008 to 57 in FY 2009. The CWS Court Liaison continues to maintain an office in the Juvenile Court. The Liaison plays a critical role by drafting the CINA petitions and facilitating communication between the court staff, judges, CWS staff and their legal team.

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR**

### **Accreditation**

After several years of diligent self study and a focus on continuous quality improvement, Child Welfare Services was reaccredited during the past year by the Council on Accreditation (COA). This was part of a larger effort in Montgomery County in which several parts of HHS were accredited. CWS achieved accreditation with no need for corrective action.

Although Child Welfare's original Continuous Quality Improvement Council and Standing Committee structure was maintained, it was also transformed into a Departmental Performance and Quality Improvement Council and process. Further, the "Request for Action" process designed to solicit feedback and improvement suggestions from CWS staff was expanded into a Departmental "Recommendation for Improvement" system that now receives suggestions from all department staff.

Quality Improvement efforts included development of a program improvement plan following the DHR Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). In addition, Child Welfare conducted training and ongoing CFSR mock reviews with Citizen Review Panel members. The program utilizes the findings from these reviews to perform needed corrective action to improve all aspects of service delivery. Child Welfare also participates in and uses the results of Monthly Supervisory Reviews conducted in coordination with DHR and the University of Maryland, to examine its practice and improve performance

### **The Visitation House**

The Visitation House is a new child welfare program that provides a home-like atmosphere for supervised visitation for parents, children and siblings involved with Child Welfare Services. The idea for the house originated with Children's Action Team (CAT) and with the cooperation of various departments of Montgomery County government, Health and Human Services, Housing and Community Affairs coupled with the efforts of many private organizations and individual volunteers; the idea was brought to fruition. The Visitation House has an average of over 50 visits a month and is highly successful and well received by our families.

### **Maryland Children Electronic Social Services Information Exchange (MD CHESSIE)**

MD CHESSIE, the statewide automated CWS system enables child tracking and information sharing, continued to be utilized by child welfare staff across the State to maintain client service history and contact information. The unique electronic database allows workers to share cases locally and across jurisdictions, and makes information readily available to all workers involved in the case. The system also allows the local Department and DHR to monitor caseloads and actual spending as CHESSIE began generate Child Welfare payments.

Representatives from many jurisdictions, as well as, the DHR participated in a workgroup, called the Tiger team, focusing on improving CHESSIE functioning and making major enhancements to the program, such as user friendly search tools and financial management safeguards. Several enhancements were implemented during the past year.

### **Mental Health Services**

With County funding, six therapists continued to provide specialized, in-home services for children and families in the Child Welfare system. Over the past year these therapists worked with more than 100 children and adolescents with emotional problems. The therapists focused on helping children and parents overcome mental health difficulties and resolve the trauma related to child abuse and neglect. The therapists are co-located with Child Welfare staff in the Rockville and Germantown

offices, and are available to provide direct services, consultation and progress reports. The mental health therapists are experienced and several are Spanish speaking.

### **CAC Accreditation**

After seven years of working to improve direct services to victims of child maltreatment and increase perpetrators' accountability, The Tree House earned national accreditation as a child advocacy center. The Tree House is a strong collaboration between Child Welfare Services, the State's Attorney's Office, the Office of the County Attorney, and the Department of Police. The Tree House has skilled, dedicated staff committed to providing comprehensive services to children who have been abused and neglected and breaking the cycle of child maltreatment in Montgomery County.

### **Collaboration**

This was the first year for Montgomery County CWS as a site for a IVE Multicultural Unit which was an expansion to our Social Work Field Instruction Program. A collaboration with University of Maryland's School of Social Work and DHR; this was an effort to develop competency in a multicultural group of student social workers and prepare them for work in a public agency. The mission of the unit is to develop the knowledge and skills of graduate social work students in working with clients of diverse backgrounds and experiences. The unit's first five students had a very positive experience and the Department successfully recruited the three graduating MSW students, two of whom are fluent in Spanish.

### **FAMILY CENTERED PRACTICE**

It has long been known that children thrive when living with families and therefore there continued to be a strong emphasis on family connections during the past year. We reunited children with their parents when possible, and found substitute families when their own parents could not care for them safely.

**Family Involvement Meetings (FIM)** are a collaborative effort to ensure the safety and well-being of children by including family members, agency staff, service providers, community members, foster parents, the family's support network and, if age appropriate, the child in placement decisions. FIM meetings are held to prevent placement, following emergency placement, to prevent placement disruption, when change in the level of care is necessary or appropriate or there is a change in the child's permanency plan. In FY 2009, 158 FIM's were held. As a result of these meetings, 123 children remained with their parents or relatives. Satisfaction surveys indicate continuing support for the meetings from biological family members, community partners, social workers, and supervisors.

**Responsible Fathers Program** - This program for young fathers, funded by a DHR grant, provided resources and services to 102 young fathers to help them develop meaningful relationships with their children, obtain employment, and contribute to the support of their families. Partnerships with educational and job training programs, Child Support Enforcement, mental health and physical health providers, therapeutic/educational parenting programs, among others, were instrumental in establishing paternity engaging fathers, and involving fathers in their children's lives. The majority of the participants secured and maintained employment and contributed financially to the support of their children, strengthening the parental bond. This year 47 children were diverted from out-of-home placements through the services provided by the Responsible Fathers Program. The staff of the Fatherhood Initiatives was instrumental in the planning and realization of the First Regional Fatherhood Conference in the County.

**Winning Fathers:** The Winning Fathers Program (also funded by a grant from DHR) focused on preparing fathers who are transitioning from incarceration into the community and family life. The focus is on family and economic stability. The program partnered with the Pre-Release Center to identify participants for the program and incorporate the program into the new residents' orientation. Eligible participants were referred to services to address domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health and anger management. Individualized service plans include employment readiness, job training, job search and placement assistance, as well as, child support enforcement and contributing to family financial stability. The mandatory six week Healthy Relationship and Parenting Curriculum is taught with spouses, partners and parenting partners. Since January 2009 the

program served 82 fathers. The collaboration between the Pre-Release Center and CWS has been recognized as a "Best Practice Model" at the National Conference on Fatherhood.

### **Safe & Stable Families**

A grant from DHR helped establish an evidence-based model of intervention for adolescents who present as "hard to manage" by their parents and are at risk for out-of-home placement. This program utilizes an in-home intensive therapy model (Brief Strategic Therapy) to assess all aspects of the child's environment and incorporates the values of safety and well being in the service delivery. Adolescents referred to CWS with serious "out of control" behaviors, whose parents lack the skills and knowledge to advocate for mental health, educational and social services necessary to stabilize the crisis, are the target of this intervention. The focus was on improved family functioning, maintaining youth in their communities and reinforcing the family system so that youth safely remained with their families. The Safe & Stable program worked with 65 families.

### **Post Adoption Services**

To enhance the success of adoptive placements in Montgomery County the Post Adoption Initiative is a collaborative partnership with a private partner, the Center for Adoption Support and Education (CASE), which provides a wide range of specialized mental health and support services to adopted children and their families. Through individual, family, group counseling and parent educational/support services, participants learn to resolve issues after adoption. During FY 2009, the program served more than 45 children and families preventing adoption dissolution and promoting the emotional well being of children and their families. Parents and children reported positive outcomes and reduction in adoption related adjustment issues.

### **Early Childhood Programs**

Partnerships with Infants & Toddlers, Head Start and other programs have been successful in facilitating early evaluation and intervention for children with developmental disabilities. These trans-disciplinary approaches start with rapid assessment and services often taking place in the home. Children and parents benefit from the skills gained, socialization and knowledge of community resources. Collaboration with Head Start assured that eligible children were enrolled in preschool programs to better prepare them for elementary education. This year, the issues of educational surrogates and confidentiality related to the Infant and Toddlers evaluations resulted in revising our policies and procedures to facilitate services for CWS children and families.

### **COMMUNITY GIVING**

We are very fortunate that the Montgomery County community continued to be supportive in many of our efforts to assist children and families. Several of the larger programs are:

The **Generous Juror Program**, a joint project between the Circuit Court, and Child Welfare Services gave prospective jurors the opportunity to donate their jury fee to support activities to benefit children served by CWS and Department of Juvenile Services. It continued to be highly successful. They collected \$59, 691, which was used to provide camp scholarships, tutoring, holiday, birthday and graduation gifts, arts and sports activities and school supplies for children who otherwise would not have had such experiences or provisions.

The **Adopt-A-Social-Worker Program** helped children and families receive voluntary donations from the community. During the past year, the program expanded as more people learned of the needs of children and families. Donations were used to provide children with school supplies and graduation presents for high school seniors. Items donated included 335 wonderful backpacks filled with school supplies and over 100 "stuff-a-duff" duffle bags filled with items for kids being taken from their homes—hygiene products, night shirts, towels, washcloths, etcetera; a private citizen collected food for 135 complete Thanksgiving dinners and 50 photo albums to the visitation house; a congregation donated gift cards for teenagers to Old Navy to celebrate birthdays or special achievements. We also received hundreds of undergarments for men, women and children and knitted hats, scarves and blankets and free hair cuts.



**Community Campaign:** This year the Department partnered with dedicated community volunteers who are interested in developing resources for CWS youth. In a short time, they identified a wish list from staff for CWS youth and established a “Bank” of goods and services. This included Circus and theater tickets and tickets to various sporting events, food coupons, sleepover bags and craft supplies. With their support, families and children had opportunities to attend activities and participate in events that are not within the funding resources of CWS.

## **STAFFING**

Recruitment and retention of staff continued to be a major challenge during the past year. Twenty three professional staff left for professional and personal reasons. Exit interviews helped identify that the nature of the work, which is highly stressful, was the leading reason people left and personal reasons (children and re-location) was the second reason. Many young social workers were recruited during the past few years and they have remained energetic and committed to fulfilling the child welfare mission. The new unit that is a partnership between DHR, the University of Maryland School of Social Work to recruit social work students who speak other languages, resulted in CWS hiring three of the graduating students, who speak Spanish. New CWS social workers are required to attend extensive pre-service training offered through the University of Maryland and the CWS Training Academy. This training takes more than three months to complete and is held in Baltimore.

## **AN INTEGRATED APPROACH**

Child Welfare Services advocates an integrated approach to protecting the safety and well-being of children, youth and the families. To that end, CWS maintained a large array of professional partnerships and collaborations.

- Easy access to services was made possible by a variety of specialists, from other programs and agencies.
  - County Attorneys co-located with Child Welfare staff, helped address legal concerns and prepare cases for court.
  - The Income Support program assigned and co-located two staff members with CWS. These individuals provided medical assistance enrollment for children coming into out-of-home care.
  - Six mental health therapists specialized in serving Child Welfare children and their parents. In addition, a mental health professional, funded by the Core Service Agency (CSA) and located at the Child Assessment Center, completed assessments and made recommendations for treatment and assisted in identifying appropriate mental health resources.
- Representatives of CWS, the County Attorney’s Office, Montgomery County Police Department, State Attorney’s Office, and the CAC staff meet weekly at the Juvenile Assessment Center in a multidisciplinary team meeting to discuss complex multi-agency cases. The senior managers of those agencies meet regularly to discuss the effective operation of the Tree House.
- Maryland Choices is a program of the Montgomery County Collaboration Council, in which children and youth with intensive needs, receive a variety of services to prevent Out-of-Home placement. Services include helping children who have been in group or residential care transition back into the community. Programs include home based therapy, mentoring, specialized services and professional team coordination.

In addition, Maryland Choices was selected in a competitive process to deliver state funded Interagency Family Preservation Services to children in danger of being removed from their home. The program hired and trained staff and started serving children and families late in the year.

- The Metropolitan YMCA implemented a Court supported, mentoring program which matched more than 20 young people in effective supportive relationships. This was the third year of the program which was highly successful in keeping adolescents in school.

## **IN PRAISE OF CWS STAFF (2009)**

Child Welfare Services staff received special recognition for their hard work in a variety of ways:

- Pamela Littlewood was recognized as a Montgomery's Best Award recipient for being an outstanding worker in Montgomery County Government.
- John Hawkins was .honored as Outstanding Worker of the Year by the CASA program for his commitment to serving children and families.
- Carol Klein Goldstein was recognized by Maryland DHR as Outstanding Worker of the Year for her outstanding work with children and families.
- Ann Gumula received the CAC Annual Tree House Champion of the Year Award.
- Jeanne Booth was the HHS Innovation Award recipient.
- One of our Independent Living youth (Adela Lara) won "Youth Participant of the Year" from Montgomery County 2008 Workforce and Economic Development.
- The Metropolitan Council of Governments highlighted Treatment Foster Care mother Carolyn Young, as the Foster Parent of the Year at the annual Freddie Mac Foster Family Celebration.
- Kinship Care received an HHS Honorable Mention for the Team Achievement Award.
- Teresa Blair was highlighted by the Montgomery County Arts Council for working with the Arts on the Block grant that resulted in a lovely renovated fourth floor lobby.
- Sara Kulow a social worker in Assessment and Kate Smith, a Community Services Aide were recognized by colleagues and highlighted by CQI Council as outstanding workers in CWS.

### **Partnerships and Collaborations**

These are some of the community groups with which Child Welfare Services collaborates frequently:

*Addiction Services Coordination  
Behavioral Health Partners  
Board of Social Services  
Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.)  
Child Fatality Review Committee  
Citizens' Review Boards  
Citizens' Review Panel  
Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children  
Commission on Children and Youth  
Commission on Juvenile Justice  
Contemporary Therapeutic Services  
Council of Governments (COG)  
Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)  
Department of Juvenile Justice/ Child Welfare Services Consultation Team  
Domestic Violence Alert Team  
Early Childhood Workgroup  
Family Service Agency  
Friends in Action (FIA)  
Healthy Families Montgomery  
Hearts & Homes  
High Risk Consultation Team  
Homeless Shelter Providers Team*

*Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC)  
Infants and Toddlers Program  
Institute for Family Centered Services  
Interagency Committee on Adolescent Pregnancy  
Interfaith Works  
Linkages to Learning  
Local Coordinating Council (LCC)  
Maryland Choices  
Maryland Department of Juvenile Services  
Maryland Hot Spot Communities  
Mental Health Assoc. of Montgomery County (MHA)  
Moms Offering Moms Support (MOMS)  
Montgomery County Collaboration Council  
Montgomery County Public School -  
Montgomery County Child Care Resource and Referral Center  
National Center for Children & Families (NCCF)  
Operation Runaway  
Primary Care Coalition  
Progressive Life  
Reginald Lourie Center  
St Ann's Infant and Maternity Home  
Tree House, Child Assessment Center  
Wells Robertson House  
YMCA – Metropolitan YMCA*

### **Montgomery County Child Welfare Services Executive Staff**

Agnes F. Leshner, MA

#### **Director**

Vicki Baltimore, Office Services Coordinator

Sheila Dennis, LCSW-C  
Assessment Section Administrator  
LaTasha Robinson, Office Services Coordinator

Angela English,, LCSW-C  
Out of Home Services Administrator  
Patty Carson, Office Services Coordinator

Louise Klein, LCSW-C  
Continuing Section Administrator  
Jessica Santos, Office Services Coordinator

Pat Davis Spann, LGSW  
Resource Section Administrator  
Phyllis Reed, Office Services Coordinator

Montgomery County Child Welfare Services has four offices. The main office is in Rockville and there are three regional offices. These offices are co-located with other Montgomery County Government programs.

#### **Headquarters**

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#### **Germantown Regional Services Center**

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#### **Juvenile Assessment Center**

7300 Calhoun Place, Suite 400  
Rockville, MD 20855  
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#### **Silver Spring Regional Services Center**

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#### *Web Site*

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov>